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ITEM 6 (a)*: COORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1992 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC) TO THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

Addendum

POLICY ADVICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNEP TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC) ON FUTURE REPORTS OF THE ACC

Note by the Executive Director

1. This note is presented to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by the Executive Director in response to a request by the Designated Officials on Environmental Matters (DOEM) of the United Nations system, contained in paragraph 4 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) report to the UNEP Governing Council for 1992 (UNEP/GC.17/12). The Governing Council is requested to reassess the focus of future reporting concerning the environment in the light of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to identify the scope and objectives of the ACC reports to the Council in order to assist the ACC in rationalizing its preparatory process and to ensure that the reports meet with the specific priority requirements of the Governing Council.

2. In the above context, the Council may wish to bear in mind that UNCED reaffirmed the Council's role as the principal body within the United Nations in the field of the environment and stated further that the Council should continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective.

3. In addition, Agenda 21 calls for a strengthened role for UNEP and its Governing Council. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, gave the Council the mandate to promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end.

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* Refers to the number of the item on the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/GC.17/1).

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4. The Council should also bear in mind the valuable cooperation that it has received from the ACC, since the latter was assigned the functions of the previously existing Environmental Coordination Board by the General Assembly by its resolution 32/197 (Annex) of 20 December 1977.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

- Emphasize that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as the central coordinating body for sustainable development and environment in the United Nations system, can play a significant role in assisting the Governing Council to address system-wide cooperation and coordination for the environment, taking into account the development perspective;

- Request the Administrative Committee on Coordination in future to report only in those years when the Governing Council meets in regular session;

- Further request the Administrative Committee on Coordination to focus future reports to the Governing Council on policy matters, taking into account policy issues being addressed in other intergovernmental forums of relevance to the Governing Council, and to address those policy issues that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development identified for the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular those regarding system-wide coordination and emerging and important environmental issues of system-wide interest;

- Request the Administrative Committee on Coordination to assist in harmonizing the Governing Council's decision-making process with that of other intergovernmental fora, *inter alia*, through the regular reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council.